

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7284

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS 3 AND 4
TAGS: PGOV, KS, US
SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF KIM DONG JO QUESTIONNAIRES

REF: A) STATE 211038; B) SEOUL 7278

1. AS AUTHORIZED BY REFTTEL A, THE CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRES HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER COVER OF AN AIDE-MEMOIRE (SEE TEXT PARA 6 BELOW).

2. BEFORE SENDING THE QUESTIONNAIRES, I TELEPHONED THE FONMIN. I REVIEWED WITH HIM THE CONTENTS OF PARA 2 REFTTEL B WHICH HE AGREED WAS A CORRECT REFLECTION OF OUR UNDERSTANDING. I REPEATED MY PREVIOUS STATEMENTS THAT THE CONGRESS MIGHT NOT BE SATISFIED WITH ONE ROUND OF CLARIFICATION, AND I SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD ASKED ME TO MAKE CLEAR THAT OUR QUESTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH KIM DONG JO WOULD BE OUR FINAL REQUEST BUT ONLY IN EXPECTATION THAT KIM WOULD PROVIDE MEANINGFUL INFORMATION TO THE INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEES. I ALSO CAUTIONED THE FONMIN THAT IT MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE NECESSARY FOR THE CONGRESS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY HAD SOUGHT AND RECEIVED CLARIFICATION OF SOME ANSWERS GIVEN BY KIM DONG JO. PARK REGISTERED NO OBJECTION TO ANY OF MY COMMENTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 07284 190601Z

3. COMMENT: WE ARE NOW EMBARKED ON THE NEXT AND HOPEFULLY LAST STAGE OF THE KOREAGATE INVESTIGATIONS. LIKE THE DEPARTMENT, I HAVE MY FINGERS CROSSED. CONCEIVABLY WE MAY HEAR SOME RUMBLINGS FROM THE ROKG ABOUT THE ACCUSATORY NATURE OF THE QUESTIONS AND LACK OF EVIDENCE CONTAINED IN THE QUESTIONNAIRES, BUT I HOPE WE WILL NOT. OBVIOUSLY THE MAIN DANGER IS THAT KIM DONG JO'S DEFINITION OF "A FULL AND

SINCERE" RESPONSE MAY FALL FAR SHORT OF WHAT THE HOUSE AND SENATE INVESTIGATORS WANT. AT LEAST THE ROKG AT VERY HIGH LEVELS IS AWARE OF THE STAKES INVOLVED.

4. I THINK WE ARE IN A REASONABLY GOOD POSITION IF WE LATER FIND IT NECESSARY TO TRY TO FACILITATE CONTACTS BETWEEN KIM DONG JO AND CONGRESSMEN OR SENATORS ACCUSED OF WRONGDOING AS A RESULT OF KIM'S REPLIES. SUCH CONTACTS MAY BE EASIER IF THEY ARE CONDUCTED THROUGH ATTORNEYS RATHER THAN DIRECTLY.

5. WE HAVE A SECURE MEANS TO TRANSLATE KIM DONG JO'S KOREAN LANGUAGE RESPONSE.

6. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AIDE-MEMOIRE TRANSMITTING THE CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRES:

A. QTE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED DURING RECENT CONVERSATIONS, THIS AIDE-MEMOIRE TRANSMITS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA THE QUESTIONS WHICH THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO HAVE SUBMITTED TO FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM DONG JO. THE QUESTIONS ARE PROVIDED IN TWO PARTS: PART I CONTAINS QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES AND PART II CONTAINS QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES. IN ACCORDANCE WITH LONG ESTABLISHED PRACTICE, EACH BODY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 07284 190601Z

OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF ITS OWN MEMBERS. CONSEQUENTLY, THE REPLY TO THESE QUESTIONS PREPARED BY FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM DONG JO SHOULD ALSO BE IN TWO PARTS WHICH CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE APPROPRIATE BODY OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

B. QTE: THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES WAS UNWILLING TO EMBARK ON THIS PROCEDURE UNTIL IT HAD GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THE PROCESS WOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE AND MEANINGFUL. THE ASSURANCES PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WERE THE CRITICAL FACTOR IN THE DECISION TO PROCEED. UNQTE.
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